

Andrew Jackson to William B. Conway, April 4, 1831, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO WILLIAM B. CONWAY.

Washington, April 4, 1831.

Sir, your letter of the 31st ultimo has just reached me; and altho I never answer political letters, still the subject matter of yours requires a passing comment.

The first intimation I have recvd that the meeting in this city in February last “to promote the establishment of Sunday schools in the valley of the Missi[ssi]ppi, was sectarian,” is from your letter now before me. I was induced to believe, that it was a plan for disseminating the Gospel, by a *union of all christians*, in the valley of the mississippi, where it was considered from the late settlement of the country the circulation of the bible the education of the poor and an observance of the Sabath by children might be beneficial to their morales, and in the end prove essentially servicable to the indigent. These were my understanding of the objects of that meeting as the word *Union* imports. I am no *sectarian*; tho a lover of the christian religion. I do not believe, that any, who shall be so fortunate as to be received to heaven, thro the atonement of our blessed Saviour will be asked whether they belonged to the Presbetarian, the Methodist, the Episcopalian Baptist or Roman catholic. All christians are brethern, and all true christians, know they are such, *because they love one another*. A true christian, *loves all*, immaterial to what sect, or church, he may belong. The *Union* for promoting Sunday schools in the valley of the Mississippi, I understood and believed to have nothing sectarian in its view, but was designed to aid in the Education of the poor and to meliorate the condition and improve the morals of the present and rising generation; as such it had my best wishes, and as such will ever have

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them. But should it appear that the object is, to give ascendancy and preference to any sect or denomination, over others then, my constitutional notions will compel me to frown down such an attempt because in my opinion freedom and an established religion are incompatible with each other etc. etc.